

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a privacy management service in a telephone system by using originating calls to build a database of acceptable incoming calls, said method comprising:

detecting a telephone call from a subscriber telephone number to a called party telephone number;

determining if said called party telephone number is located in a subscriber database of telephone numbers corresponding to said subscriber telephone number;

adding said called party telephone number to said subscriber database in response to said determining resulting in not locating said called party telephone number in said subscriber database; and

connecting said telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said called party telephone number;

wherein incoming telephone calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers located in the subscriber database are directly connected to the subscriber telephone number, the incoming telephone calls each displayed with caller data for a known phone number and a private indicator for a private phone number, and incoming calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers not located in the subscriber database are transmitted to a screening application; and;

connecting said telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said called party telephone number;

wherein the screening application comprises: transmitting a request for a caller at a caller party telephone number to provide identification data in response to receiving an incoming telephone call from the call at the subscriber telephone number, and presenting screening options

to a subscriber at the subscriber telephone number in response to receipt of the identification data.

wherein presenting screening options to the subscriber include an always answer option performed in response to a selection by the subscriber, and

wherein performing the always answer option includes: adding said caller telephone number to said subscriber database and connecting the incoming telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said caller telephone number.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining includes:

transmitting an inquiry transaction to said subscriber database, said inquiry transaction including said subscriber telephone number and said called party telephone number; and

receiving a response to said inquiry transaction responsive to said inquiry.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said transmitting an inquiry transaction is via a signaling transfer point to a service control point and said service control point is in communication with said subscriber database.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said communication is via a network.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said adding is performed via a signaling transfer point and a service control point in communication with said subscriber database.

6.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a privacy management service by using originating calls to build a database of acceptable incoming calls in a telephone system having a service switching point in communication with a subscriber telephone having a subscriber telephone number, and a service control point in communication with the service switching point, said system comprising:

an off-hook delay trigger provisioned on the subscriber line at the service switching point for triggering a query to the service control point whenever a telephone call from the subscriber telephone number to a called party number is detected;

a subscriber database of telephone numbers, which is in communication with the service control point; and

a service package application on the service control point for responding to the query by determining whether the called party number is located in the subscriber database, wherein:

when the called party number is not located in the subscriber database, the service package application adds the called party number to the subscriber database and routes the telephone call to the called party number, wherein incoming telephone calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers located in the subscriber database are directly connected to the subscriber telephone number and incoming calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers not located in the subscriber database are transmitted to a screening application; and

when the called party number is located in the subscriber database, the service package application routes the call to the called party number, causing the subscriber telephone to display caller data for a known phone number and a private indicator for a private phone number.

wherein the screening application comprises: transmitting a request for a caller at a caller party telephone number to provide identification data in response to receiving an incoming telephone call from the call at the subscriber telephone number, and presenting screening options to a subscriber at the subscriber telephone number in response to receipt of the identification data.

wherein presenting screening options to the subscriber include an always answer option performed in response to a selection by the subscriber, and

wherein performing the always answer option includes: adding said caller telephone number to said subscriber database and connecting the incoming telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said caller telephone number.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said subscriber database is in communication with the service control point via a network.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the network is the Internet.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the network is TCP/IP.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said subscriber database is in direct communication with said service control point.

14. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising a storage device, wherein said subscriber database is located on said storage device.

15. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said subscriber database is a relational database.

16. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said subscriber database is in communication with the service control point via a server in communication with a network.

17. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising a user system in communication with said subscriber database for updating said subscriber database.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein said user system is in communication with said subscriber database via a network.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for providing a privacy management service in a telephone system by using originating calls to build a database of acceptable incoming calls, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for performing a method comprising:

detecting a telephone call from a subscriber telephone number to a called party telephone number;

determining if said called party telephone number is located in a subscriber database of telephone numbers corresponding to said subscriber telephone number;

adding said called party telephone number to said subscriber database in response to said determining resulting in not locating said called party telephone number in said subscriber database; and

connecting said telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said called party telephone number,

wherein incoming telephone calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers located in the subscriber database are directly connected to the subscriber telephone number, the incoming telephone calls each displayed with caller data for a known phone number and a private indicator for a private phone number, and incoming calls to said subscriber telephone number from caller party telephone numbers not located in the subscriber database are transmitted to a screening application; and,

connecting said telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said called party telephone number,

wherein the screening application comprises: transmitting a request for a caller at a caller party telephone number to provide identification data in response to receiving an incoming telephone call from the call at the subscriber telephone number, and presenting screening options to a subscriber at the subscriber telephone number in response to receipt of the identification data,

wherein presenting screening options to the subscriber include an always answer option performed in response to a selection by the subscriber, and

wherein performing the always answer option includes: adding said caller telephone number to said subscriber database and connecting the incoming telephone call between said subscriber telephone number and said caller telephone number.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein caller data for a known phone number includes a caller name and a phone number.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein caller data for a known phone number includes a caller name and a phone number.